

The background of the slide features a collage of images related to education and graduation. It includes several graduates in black gowns and mortarboards, some holding diplomas. There are also stacks of books, a globe, and a graduation cap. The overall tone is celebratory and academic.

Standards for Success

Welcome to Senator Garcia's
presentation on the
Michigan Merit Curriculum,
the state's new graduation requirements.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

The background of the slide features a collage of educational imagery. In the upper portion, three students in graduation gowns and caps are visible; one student on the left is looking down at a book, while the others are looking forward. In the lower portion, a globe sits on a desk next to several stacked books. A pair of glasses is also visible on the desk. The overall theme is academic achievement and education.

The drive for rigorous statewide graduation standards in Michigan began with a recommendation from the state superintendent that was endorsed by the State Board of Education.

The board urged the Michigan Legislature to write the standards into state law.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

The Michigan Legislature promptly began reviewing and discussing the proposal.

The Senate Education Committee convened numerous hearings throughout the state to hear from parents and local educators.

The Legislature passed two bills to create statewide requirements, which were signed into law by the governor on April 20.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

The background of the slide features a collage of educational and graduation-related imagery. It includes a male graduate in a cap and gown holding a diploma, a female graduate smiling, a student looking down at a book, a stack of books, a globe, and a pair of glasses.

The new graduation requirements make Michigan a national leader in demanding that students leave high school with the higher skills and knowledge required by a 21st century workforce.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

The background of the slide features a faded, semi-transparent image of high school graduates. In the center, a male graduate in a black cap and gown looks forward. To his right, a female graduate with long blonde hair smiles. To his left, another student is partially visible. In the foreground, there are blurred images of a globe, a pair of glasses, and some papers, suggesting an academic setting.

Almost all other states have some basic statewide standards for graduation.

Previously, Michigan left graduation requirements up to local school boards, except for a half year of civics.

Many employers say Michigan's high school graduates don't have the skills they're looking for when compared to those from other states.

What people are saying



“I know many of us worry about how our state can compete with China and India. But we also need to think about what other states are doing right now and realize that most states -- especially Southern states that people elsewhere used to look down on for being backward -- demand much more for high school graduation than we do here.”

Sen. Wayne Kuipers
Chairman, Senate Education Committee
The Detroit News
April 21, 2006

What people are saying



“Every grandparent and parent wants for their children a comfortable living in a safe and desirable location. We in Michigan need to step up our expectations of and commitment to education so when we go to visit our adult children and grandchildren we are buckling up for a trip across town rather than a 10-hour drive to some other state that gets it.”

Jim Ballard
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
The Detroit News
Feb. 22, 2006

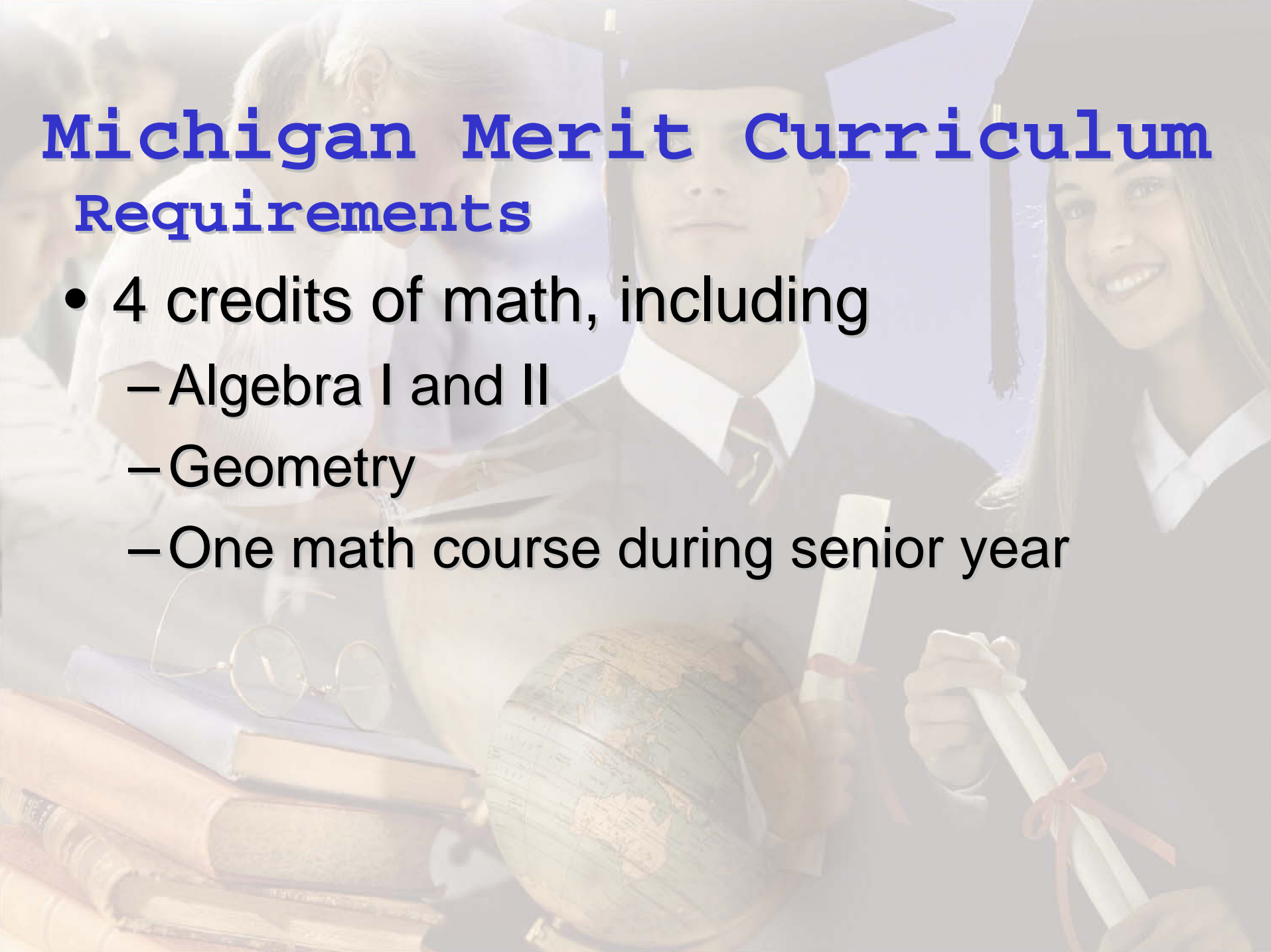


Michigan Merit Curriculum Requirements

- Applies to next year's eighth-graders (class of 2011).
- High school seniors must receive credit in various subjects and courses to graduate.
- Starting with the 2008-09 school year, all districts must provide the Merit Standard curriculum to have state accreditation.

Michigan Merit Curriculum Requirements

- 4 credits of math, including
 - Algebra I and II
 - Geometry
 - One math course during senior year

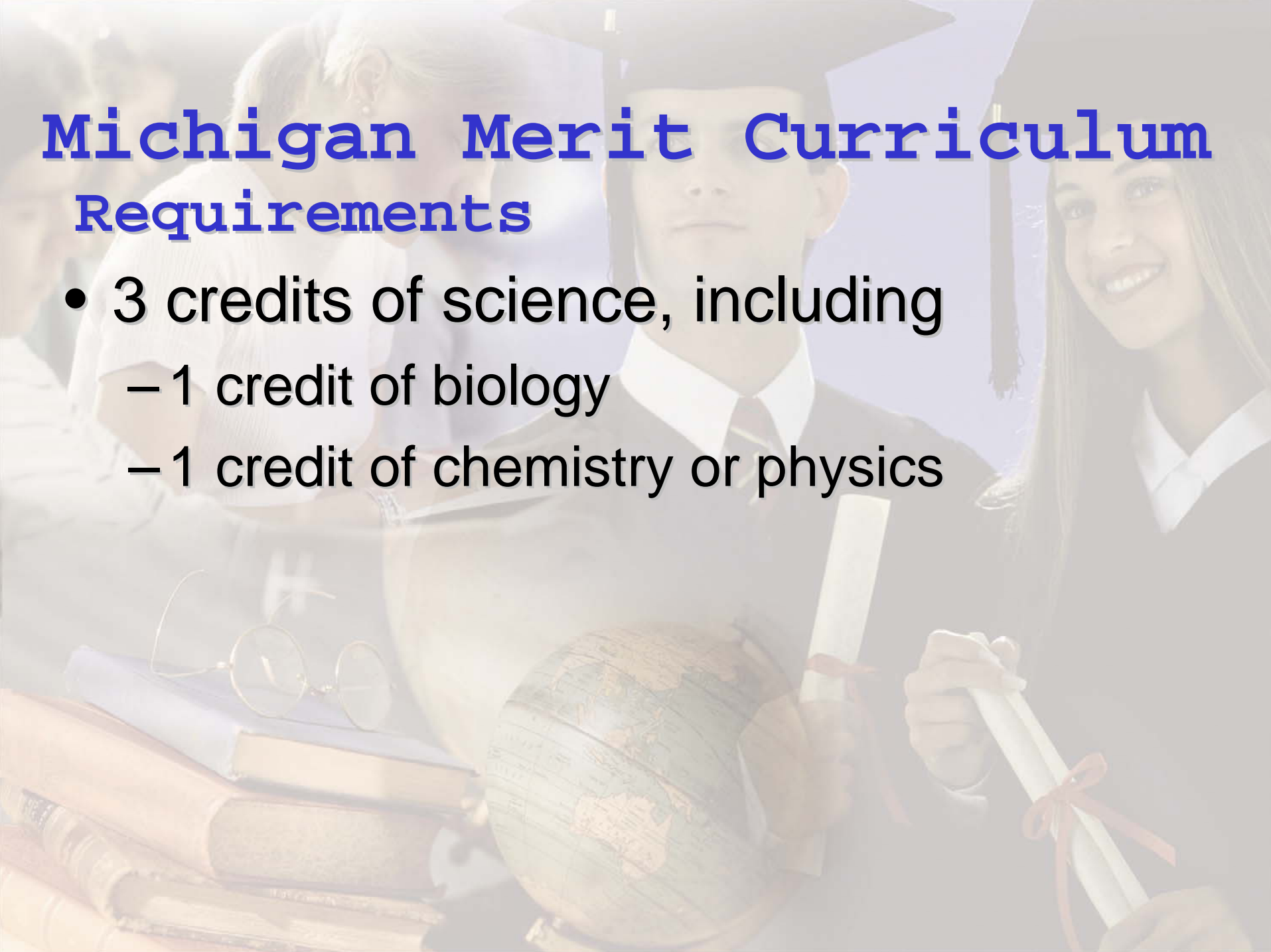


Michigan Merit Curriculum Requirements

- 3 credits of social studies, including
 - 1 credit of U.S. history and geography
 - 1 credit of world history and geography
 - ½ credit of economics
 - ½ credit of civics (government)

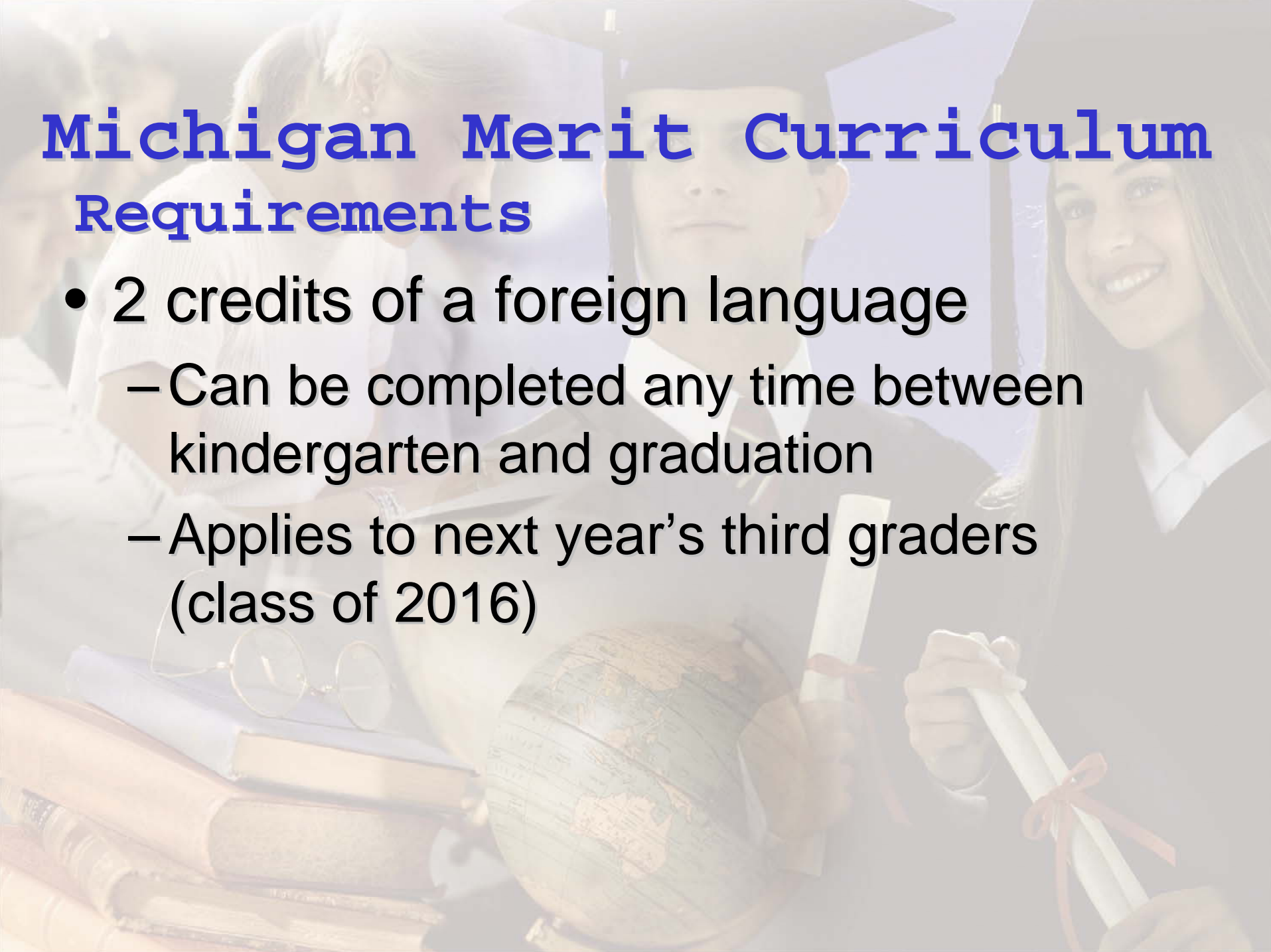
Michigan Merit Curriculum Requirements

- 3 credits of science, including
 - 1 credit of biology
 - 1 credit of chemistry or physics



Michigan Merit Curriculum Requirements

- 2 credits of a foreign language
 - Can be completed any time between kindergarten and graduation
 - Applies to next year's third graders (class of 2016)



The background of the slide features a collage of academic and graduation-related images. It includes a male graduate in a cap and gown, a smiling female graduate, a stack of books, a globe, and a rolled-up diploma tied with a red ribbon.

Michigan Merit Curriculum Requirements

- 4 credits of English Language Arts
- 1 credit of health and physical education
- 1 credit of visual, performing or applied arts
- 1 online course or learning experience

Michigan Merit Curriculum

How it can be modified

- Parents can request a personalized curriculum for their child if all course content expectations are met.
- Plan must meet as much of the Merit Curriculum as possible.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

Once it is modified

- Parents will be in contact with the student's teachers at least once a quarter to monitor progress.
- Personal curriculum can be modified as a student moves through high school.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

Limits of modifications

- English and science requirements can't be modified.
- For social science, a student must complete 2 credits and agree to take additional credit in English, math, science or foreign language.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

Limits of modifications

- Math requirements can be modified if a student has completed 2.5 credits before graduation and takes an additional credit senior year.

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Limits of modifications

- Algebra II can be modified if the student has 2 credits of math and:
 - Completes one semester of Algebra II
 - Elects to complete Algebra II over two years
 - Enrolls in career-technical education program that includes Algebra II content

The background of the slide features a collage of images related to graduation. It includes a male graduate in a cap and gown, a female graduate smiling, a stack of books, and a globe. The text is overlaid on this background.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

Limits of modifications

- Arts and health and physical education can be modified when a student agrees to take 1 additional credit in English, science, math or foreign language.



Michigan Merit Curriculum

Special education

- Students who receive special education services will have their curriculum determined using the individual education program process to meet the requirements of the high-school diploma.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

When standards aren't met

- If a student isn't successfully meeting the standards required for graduation or has been identified as being at risk of dropping out, the school will notify the parents about tutoring and additional support services available.

A background image showing graduates in caps and gowns. A male graduate in the center holds a rolled-up diploma. To his right, a female graduate smiles. In the foreground, there is a stack of books, a pair of glasses, and a small globe.

Michigan Merit Curriculum

Questions